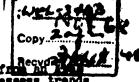
As as And Opinion, way in



The following, dated early January is from an in Jerusalem, who is well qualified to assess treated and continuous.

(i) Untiassed persons in Jerusalem feel that the disagree, ment apparent (despite optimistic press reports) between the Mufti and the Arab States is unlikely to be resolved with full strisfaction to either party. Some of the wore reasonable demands of the Mufti, particularly if they tend to further practical results for the Arab cause, may be set; in his opposition to King Abdullah the Mufti is considered likely to reserve at least Least Support from Syria and the Lebanon.

#### The Musica.

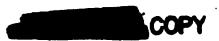
(ii) Meanwhile His Buinence's supporters in Palestine have been assiduously trying to cultivate an impression in the public mind of great activity on the Mufti's part, which will ensure success for the Arabs. Hevertholess, according to our correspondent, opinion early in January was cast down at the continued disagreement between Haj Amin and the Arab countries; a state of affairs for which the former is being blaned more and more openly. It is widely falt that the States are right in making their own conditions as to the form of their probably decisive help; the Mufti, on the other hand, is regarded as wrong when, instead of placing his leadership at the disposal of the Arab Ctates, he insists on the right to choose the overall military commander and on exercising full freedom of action himself.

Cill) The much publicised presence in Palestine of Abdul.

Occirciosacini (the Eufti's choice as guerrilla "C-in-C") has
not impressed the Arab public very greatly. Abdul Cadir, it
is felt, has not acced as a large-scale leader should in secretly
moving from village to village with some 50 followers. Such
tactics (reminiscent of these employed in the disturbances
which ended in 1958) are considered poor support for Haj Amin's
derire to show by Abdul Qadir's presence that he himself can
if necessary take up the full leadership of the "national sovement", without the assistance of the Arab Governments.

#### An Arab Government.

(iv) The recent announcement that the Mufti intended to form a "representative" Arab Government for Palestine has been received with little enthusiasm. Many Arabs in Palestine have been assing whether this step was taken with the approval of the Arab Governments, or whether it represents a defiance of these by the Mufti, as a culmination to his disagreement with



thom.

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widely felt that the basis of the system (the National Conmittees) is made up almost wholly of Haj Amin's supporters, chosen by Shaikh Hassin Abusta'ud. As a result of these considerations, opinion is stated to have swung towards the Arab States and away from the Mufti.

#### Finance.

(v) In addition, the public is reported to have come to the conclusion that the Mufti has not the means with which to carry out his plans. The sums recently raised by the Mufti's agents in Falestine, which the highest estimates had put at some £.P.60,000, are regarded as of little importance in comparison with the figures ten times greater being comin comparison with the rigures ten times greater coing contributed to the Arab cause in neighbouring countries.

Moreover, according to the staff of the Jerusalem Office of the Arab Higher Executive, the total collected in the country as a result of the recent drive by the Mufti's men did not in fact exceed 2.P. 40,000. The bulk of this sum was given in Jaffa and a few other towns: Jerusalem's contribution of some 2.P. 15,000 was sent to Jaffa for urgent preparations in the earliest stages of the present disorders. The remainder of the collection was soon almost entirely expended on immediate defence requirements. immediate defence requirements. As a result the Arab Higher Executive's office in Palestine is reported to be As a result the Arab very near bankruptcy.

#### ALTES.

(vi) The Executive's Jerusalem representatives have been supervising the distribution of small consignments of arms from the Levant States. Our correspondent describes as follows the manner in which different areas of the capital have been supplied. The Bab al Zahira (Herod's Mate) quarter of the Old City, the stronghold of the Ishwan all-bullinin (Moslem Brotherbood), is almost fully provided; the Delf Abu Tor district, inhabited almost wholly by men from Hebron, who organised their own supply by purchasing rifles from Beit Eahur, near Bethlehem, with about E.P.1,000 which they had collected, is well armed. Emile Ghuri has provided 50 rifles to the Upper Bakan quarter; some of his followers were observed receiving arms of an unknown type near his house on 5th January.

(vii) Owners of mechanical triasport buildesses were the Jaffa Gate. Jurus lem, are reported to have refused recently to make further contributions to the Arat Higher Executive; and the grounds that, although they had given money when asked on two previous occasions, they had received no protection against the recent outrage in their vicinity (when some 15 where were killed by a Jewish bomb and many wounded). In future they would provide their own protection, and nothing elem. These men are described as mostly Hebronites, and are stated to nave received backing in their stant from the not bless of Hebron itself. The inter's Mayor is reported to have tried to persuale the Mufti during a recent visit to him at Crimo to approve a plan for an independent supply to Hebron of this find Egypt. The Mufti replied that are purectived in acceptance for Palestine should be made through the

(viii) Two Iraci officers are reported to have been in Palestine for one time, training young wabs in the use of arms and in guerrilla fighting. Their presence is felt in addition to be intended as good advertisement for the Mufti's efforts.

(ix) It is stated that the Palestine Arab Malical Association alarmed at the lack of response to its request for sore runns from the Arab Higher Executive, has contemplated expealing to the International Red Cross Association. To avoid the slur this would represent Dr. Issat Tannus (Sucretary of the Beit al Meal) is reported to have determined himself to secure sapplies at an early date from the Lebanon.

#### The Arab Legion.

(x) Meanwhile the trab Lagion is reported to have gained great popularity smong the Arabs in Palestine for their practical help to the national cause. This has not pleased the supporters of the Mufti. This has not pleased

### Support from the Arab League.

(xi) Reaction in Palestine to the result of the recent raid from Syria on two Jewish settlements in the Morth of Palestine is reported to be one of strong disappointment. If the much vennted help from the Arab States (four of which, not impluffing Transjordan, are believed to have been represented among the attenders) is to take no more effective form than this, it is felt that Arab hopes for Palestine are unlikely ever to materialise. Do to the incident it had been appeared that assistance from the satisfactory in Palestine; now the public is stated to consider that its own fighting value is the greater of the two Arab elements in the strongle; this has lowered morale greatly. Finally, the efficiency of the Jewish defence against the raiders is regarded as of the best possible value for general Jewish propagands.

## The Arabs and the Powers

(xii) Commenting on the recent sailing of two ships from Bulgaria with a large number of Jewish illegal immigrants bound for Palestine, source states that most Arabs regarded the passengers as an army despatched in civilian clothing the Russians. It was felt not unlikely that a correspond large shipment of arms would follow. Opinion towards the U.S.S.R. is on the whole unfavourable; so is arab feeling towards the U.S.A. Feeling for Great Britain is improve